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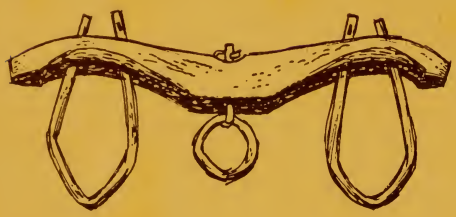
Lincoln, Abraham

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

LINCOLN ROOM



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ADDRESS

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After

FOUR SCORE YEARS

ON THE *first three days of July*, 1863, *a Union army under Meade and a Confederate army under Lee met at Gettysburg and fought what turned out to be the decisive battle of the Civil War.*

On the following nineteenth of November, notables of the nation gathered on that battlefield to dedicate the Gettysburg National Cemetery. The

featured speaker of the occasion was the Honorable Edward Everett, regarded as the greatest orator of his time. His address lasted two hours. He was followed by President Lincoln, who had been asked, as an afterthought, to make a few dedicatory remarks. Lincoln spoke only three or four minutes—his speech contained only two hundred and sixty-seven words. Today, what Everett said in his long oration is almost forgotten, ex-

cept among scholars; Lincoln's few words stand deeply graven in the hearts and minds of the American people.

In these again troublous times, when rival political theories are being tested in forums and on battlefields around the world, we are reprinting for our customers and other friends this compact statement of our American principles of free government.

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FOUR score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation, so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We

are met on a great battlefield of that war. We are met to dedicate a portion of it as the final resting place of those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our power

to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work that they have thus far so nobly carried on. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us,—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last

full measure of devotion,—
that we here highly resolve
that the dead shall not have
died in vain; that the nation
shall, under God, have a new
birth of freedom, and that
governments of the people,
by the people, and for the
people, shall not perish from
the earth.

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